

H.A

**Notice of Allowability**

Application No.

10/642,345

Examiner

Zeev Kitov

Applicant(s)

HIRAGA, NORIAKI

Art Unit

2836

**-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--**

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to 06/15/05.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 20 - 28, 46, 47.
3. ☒ The drawings filed on 18 August 2003 are accepted by the Examiner.
4. ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
  - a) ☒ All    b) ☐ Some\*    c) ☐ None    of the:
    1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
    2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
    3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* Certified copies not received: \_\_\_\_\_.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

**THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.**

5. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
  6. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS ( as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
    - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review ( PTO-948) attached
      - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_.
    - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
7. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

**Attachment(s)**

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|--|--|
| 1. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)   | 5. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)            |
| 2. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)   | 6. <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413),<br>Paper No./Mail Date _____. |
| 3. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08),<br>Paper No./Mail Date <u>06/15/05</u> | 7. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Amendment/Comment                    |
| 4. <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit<br>of Biological Material                               | 8. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance   |
|  | 9. <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____.   |

### **REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE**

Examiner acknowledges a submission of the amendment and arguments filed on June 15, 2005. Claims 31 and 36 are withdrawn; Claims 20 and 24 - 26 are amended. New Claims 46 and 47 are added. Examiner accepted US Patent 5,548,135 as a replacement for the Japanese Patent Application 11 – 505374. Amendment and arguments have overcome rejections under 112, 2<sup>nd</sup> paragraph and 103(a).

### **EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT**

An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

1. This application is in condition for allowance except for the presence of claims 29 to 45 non-elected without traverse. Accordingly, claims 29 – 45 have been cancelled.

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The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

An amended independent Claim 1 discloses, inter alia, an inter-circuit signal wires different from said power lines, arranged to interconnect said two internal circuits, wherein said inter-circuit signal wire is not directly connected to said external signal input/output circuits; and an inter-circuit auxiliary wire, different from said power lines,

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connected to a static area near a location at which said inter-circuit signal wire is connected. The closest reference for the Claim is Toyoda, which discloses some of the claim limitations, such as the integrated circuit having a plurality of internal circuits (elements 12 and couple of I/O transistors in the upper left corner in Fig.6) arranged internally in a circuit forming region, the internal circuits-having different power lines (elements VDD1 and VDD2 in Fig. 2A and 2B); an inter-circuit signal wire different from the power lines (element 17 in Fig. 6) interconnecting the couple of input transistors with one of the internal circuits. It further discloses and an inter-circuit auxiliary wire an inter-circuit auxiliary wire (the wire connecting VDD to the upper left cell 21 in Fig. 6). However, this element does not fit the claim limitation of the inter-circuit auxiliary wire being different from the power lines. Additionally, the inter-circuit signal wire of the reference (element 17 in Fig. 6) does not fit the claim limitation of the inter-circuit signal wire being not in directly connected to the external signal input/output circuits.

Allowability resides, at least in part, in the above-described limitations, which has not been disclosed in the Prior Art in a search.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."


Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Zeev Kitov whose telephone number is (571) 272-2052. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:00 – 4:30. If attempts to reach examiner by

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telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Brian Sircus can be reached on (571) 272 – 2800, Ext. 36. The fax phone number for organization where this application or proceedings is assigned is (703) 872-9306 for all communications.

Z.K.

06/30/2005



BRIAN SIRCUS  
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER  
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